







Sikhula Sonke Early Childhood Development is a community-based organisation addressing the need for early childhood development in Khayelitsha by providing access to quality ECD services, training and resources since 2001.

We provide preschool services to young children and offer quality early childhood development training and support to the parents, caregivers and preschool teachers in the informal settlements of this township of Cape Town, South Africa.

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ABOUT KHAYELITSHA

Khayelitsha means 'new home' in isiXhosa. Khayelitsha is the second largest township in South Africa after Soweto in Johannesburg. It is situated on the periphery of the city of Cape Town (30-35km from the CBD) and next to the N2 leading into Cape Town. Officially established in 1983, Khayelitsha was constructed to resettle African residents from the Western Cape.

Khayelitsha was proposed to be 1,070 hectares with four 'towns', each made up of four villages of 1500 residents per village. The original planned population size was 200,000 people; the 2022 census recorded 2,400,000 people living in Khayelitsha (half of Cape Town's population).

Khayelitsha has the largest single concentration of informal settlements in the City. At last count there were 22 sections, however this number is growing rapidly as immigrants move to the city and new shacks spring up.

Ouick stats

- Two thirds of Khayelitsha's population are under the age of 29.
- While there is some formal housing, approximately 75% of residents live in shacks in the informal settlements.
- 1 in 3 people walks 200 metres or further to access water.
- 89% of households are moderately or severely food-insecure.
- Approx. 46% of Khayelitsha's total working age population is unemployed. Since COVID we believe this figure is higher.

Preschools & early childhood development

- Khayelitsha is home to 196,000 children under the age of six (extrapolated from government census and CoCT stats).
- Khayelitsha's formal and informal preschools only reach 30% of preschool-age children.
- This means 70% of children have no access to early childhood development support and/or learning opportunities.
- The new informal sections have even fewer preschools.

Area development challenges

- · Overcrowded living conditions.
- A lack of land for formal housing projects.
- Increased land invasions (within the context of limited land) placing pressure on infrastructure.
- Extensive housing backlogs.
- High levels of HIV and AIDS.
- Limited access to affordable public transport.
- · Poor skills base of community.
- The informal sector currently employs 22% of the labour force.
- Reliance on social grants for income (among high levels of unemployment, economic inactivity).
- High levels of gender-based violence.
- · Crime and substance abuse.





FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It gives me great pleasure to bring you this review of our operations in 2022/2023. I stand with conviction that Sikhula Sonke Early Childhood Development has done a great work to ensure that children's rights in Khayelitsha communities are still being upheld and accounted for.

This report outlines the highlights, lowlights, achievements, successes and financials of this credible organization.

The after-effects of the pandemic, loadshedding and economic downturn (downgrading of the economy) are reflected in high rates of unemployment, an increase in crime and food insecurity, and the destabilization of communities in Khayelitsha.

This has impacted our work but has not deterred us in looking towards the ultimate goal of giving the African child the best foundation for life.

Ayilali isukelwa – we should not become lazy.

Our organization remains highly compliant in all governance levels.

Our achievements have been made possible by our valuable operational team, volunteers, communications department, management team, grant makers, friends of Sikhula Sonke (local and from overseas countries), government departments, implementing partners, board of directors, and most importantly our beneficiaries on the ground who have given us the privilege of serving them.

The success of the year under review and the ongoing sustainability of this organization is a true reflection of the return on investments by all mentioned above.

We continue to advocate for our South Africa - a wonderful country with such great opportunities despite the many inequalities.

It is therefore my call that every player in our society takes a lead in doing whatever possible to benefit the future of young children. Let us together uphold the rights of children, and especially underprivileged children.

Masibambeni iqhaza ekukhuliseni nasekuphuhliseni abantwana belizwe lethu - let us grow and develop the children of our nation together.

Please continue to support Sikhula Sonke Early Childhood Development in whatever way or means possible.

The young children of Khayelitsha's vulnerable communities are making progress, growing and reaching their potential because of your involvement in this project.

I salute you.

Maz' enethole - thank you so much.

Mdebyka Mthwazi



OUR VISION



Our vision is that every child in Khayelitsha has the opportunity to develop to his or her full potential in a safe, stimulating and loving environment.

We see the parents, caregivers, community members and preschool teachers in Khayelitsha being trained and supported to provide such an environment.

OUR MISSION

We work closely with parents, caregivers, registered and unregistered preschools and playgroups, community leaders, government, health services and other partners to ensure Khayelitsha's young children reach their developmental milestones and thrive.

BELIEFS THAT GUIDE US

We believe:

- All children have the right to be loved, cared for and developed physically, intellectually, emotionally, morally and socially.
- Women are uniquely placed to protect and enforce the rights of children and need to be supported, encouraged and equipped with the necessary skills to do so.
- By nurturing and building our children, we nurture and build our nation.
- All parents and caregivers of young children should be knowledgeable about early childhood development so that they can play an active role in nurturing and enhancing the development of the children in their care.
- Our united efforts will significantly and positively impact on the future of our young children and afford them the opportunity to realise their potential, and in so doing, to secure the future of our country.

OUR VALUES

We are passionate about our core values: Commitment, Diligence, Excellence, Accountability, Ubuntu and Transparency.

OUR HISTORY

In 1980s and 1990s Khayelitsha's communities were in turmoil. There was a dire need for proper housing, health and educational facilities. In response, Claremont Methodist Church, in collaboration with Habitat for Humanity, began building houses in the Harare area of Khayelitsha as part of their Social Impact Ministry. While working in the area, members noted the plight of young, unschooled and vulnerable children.

Sikhula Sonke ECD was formed to address the need for quality early childhood development so that children could start their primary schooling with the advantages of having reached childhood milestones.

More than 23 years later, Khayelitsha still remains one of the 22 identified Presidential Poverty nodes in South Africa and Sikhula Sonke ECD continues with their mission to see this community equipped, educated and empowered.

GOVERNANCE

Sikhula Sonke ECD thanks our Board and our Finance Manager for their support, wisdom and input this year.

Evan Torrance - Chairman Mdebuka Mthwazi - Executive Director Sindiswa Dapula - Community & ECD Representation Jennifer Klein - Legal Janet Glanville - Finance Manager





OUR PROGRAMMES & PEOPLE

Sikhula Sonke runs four programmes which are supported by our Social Work department. In addition, we have started a Fatherhood Network which spans all our programmes to engage fathers in early childhood development.

Sikhula Sonke ECD had a staff complement of 27 full time staff, 5 FNB interns and 20 EPWP workers. All our staff are residents of Khayelitsha. As a learning organisation, our staff are actively encouraged to further their own education, share what they have learnt and embrace a lifestyle of curiosity and selfdevelopment.



Imbewu Coaching, Support & Training for ECD practitioners within the context of their preschools and on-site at the Harare Library resource centre.



Funda Udlale Toy Library provides early childhood development opportunities through access to educational games, books and other resources.



Imbiza Family & Community Motivator offers support and training to families and caregivers in their homes and community spaces.



Emthonieni Playgroup Outreach reaches out to children not in school, offering early childhood development services using public spaces, as well as psychosocial support for caregivers.



Mdebuka Mthwazi (L) **Executive Director** & Thembakazi Nxesi (R)







Fatherhood Network



Team Leaders



Imbewu Coaching & Funda Udlale Toy Library teams



Imbiza Family & Community Motivator (FCM)



Social Work



HR / Office

IMBEWU ECD TRAINING





QUICK STATS

168 Centres registered in our Mentoring programmes
197 centre visits made by SISO mentors/coaches
1825 children serviced by the centres
14 special needs children assisted

Imbewu offers ECD practitioners coaching, support and access to ECD resources.

Basic ECD teacher training ran every Friday, with 35 practitioners registered: 28 from the ECD centres and 7 from Sikhula Sonke. Topics covered included premises and equipment; health, safety and nutrition; management and governance; working with families and communities; active learning and classroom activities. At the end of the 4th quarter we celebrated the graduation of 27 practitioners (21 from ECD centres and 6 from Sikhula Sonke).

Workplace mentoring saw more than 100 ECD centres supported by Sikhula Sonke's ECD coaches and mentors through centre visits and one-on-one feedback. The ECD practitioners showed visible improvement in their teaching and the general day-to-day running of the centres.

Nutritional support is vital for the many children who come from food-insecure homes. We thank ForAfrika for their ongoing passion and support for families with nutritional porridge despite some challenging funding obstructions.

School partnerships: This year Wynberg Girls High School partnered with SISO to provide monthly donations of sandwiches and fruit for the preschools and Christmas food parcels for families over the holidays. We value this learner-led initiative.













FUNDA UDLALE TOY LIBRARY SERVICES





QUICK STATS

509 toys borrowed by families

28 play sessions for the Emthonjeni playgroups

69 play sessions for the ECD Centres

29 afternoon play sessions for the community

3231 child play interactions (of which 1682 boys, 1522 girls)

The Toy Library has been very busy with many play sessions for the ECD centres and Emthonjeni outreach children, as well as general play sessions open to the community. We had very good attendance during the course of the year except in the last quarter when children were engaged in graduation events and their siblings were at home. Toy Library has been a happy and safe space for learning.

International Library Week activities gave children a chance to enjoy games, toys and books.

Marketing of the toy library to the community and ECD Centres resulted in an increase in attendance by the community children in afternoon sessions.

A library revamp took place at the beginning of 2023, making the space colourful and fresh.

Ongoing librarian training took place throughout the year educating on different toys and how to facilitate play sessions to maximise learning.

Child Protection Week saw community dialogues taking place in six areas, with 258 caregivers and 250 children attending events.

Our World Play Day picnic was a great success thanks to the 109 stakeholders who supported us and participated in different activities. In total, we hosted 721 children from SISO Emthonjeni playgroups and 16 ECD centres. In addition:

- 413 children had dental checkups
- Referrals were made to Michael Mapongwana Hospital
- 40 children received their immunisations
- · 6 caregivers participated in family planning
- 14 caregivers received Covid-19 Boosters



















IMBIZA FCM FAMILY & COMMUNITY





QUICK STATS

220 families registered and 223 children attended FCM playgroups

3540 home visits made to families

10 special needs children supported

15 social work cases referred with 12 successfully resolved

48 parent cluster workshops took place

38 caregivers attended FAMSA GBV training

Imbiza Family & Community Motivator offers support and training to families and caregivers, in their homes and using community spaces.

Cluster workshops: FCM continues to facilitate cluster workshops in UT Gardens, Taiwan, Monwabisi Park CO-4, Monwabisi Park A Section and Enkanini. A key focus this year has been child safety, equipping caregivers with ECD skills and knowledge and information to assist them in their parenting, as well as childhood vaccinations and health checks with CoCT Health.

Nanny 'n Me: This year Sikhula Sonke partnered with Growing Together to implement a group-based approach bringing mothers together for the Nanny 'n Me training, in which moms and tots learn and play together. 20 caregivers received training in facilitating groups. These spaces gave the mothers great support to share and connect while they learnt new parenting skills and helped their children with gross and fine motor development. The programme is very popular.

The 1st 1000 Days programme continues to support mothers and babies, focusing on the time between conception to 2 years of age. We are seeing more healthy babies born, with mothers accessing all the necessary documentation their children will later require to attend school and/or apply for Child Support Grants.

FAMSA training has enriched our psycho-social support of parents and caregivers this year.















EMTHONJENI PLAYGROUP OUTREACH



QUICK STATS

293 families registered

307 children participating in the Emthonieni playgroups

1301 home visits made to families

11 special needs children supported

68 social work document-related cases resolved successfully

Emthonjeni uses the public spaces in the informal settlements to run educational interventions for children between 3 and 6 years old who do not have access to preschool facilities. This gives them the play, learning and literacy opportunities they need to meet their early childhood developmental milestones.

Families and children are registered in the programmeeach child's attendance and development is carefully tracked and monitored, while at the same time, our facilitators reach out to parents and caregivers to support them in their parenting.

Areas of operation: Emthonjeni ran in eight informal settlements: UT Gardens, K2 Section, Monwabisi CO-4, Monwabisi A Section, Enkanini, Khunkqu, Taiwan and Mew Way.

Child development: Most children did well in their developmental milestones. We have had some challenges with fine motor development but with consistent attendance we noted improvement.

Health and nutrition: Stunting is being conquered through our intentional nutrition support, thank to our funders and partners like Ikamva Labantu and ForAfrika who donate food. The City of Cape Town Health teams provided vaccinations and health assistance. Thanks again to Carol du Toit Centre who screened for eye and ear problems.

Referrals: 83 cases were referred to our social work team who assisted with birth certificates, application for social grants and cases of abuse. Of the 83 cases dealt with, 68 were successfully resolved, while the remainder are in progress.

School placements: Every year our team tirelessly assists parents to register their children timeously for placement at primary schools. At the start of 2023 119 children were successfully admitted to 30 local primary schools in Cape Town, 7 children moved to the Eastern Cape and sadly one child was deceased.





A new site launched: In April Emthonjeni opened a new site in K2 Section, with thanks to Spotty Dog Enterprises who designed and built a beautiful facility which is being used for ECD in the morning and by the community in the afternoons. The classroom was funded by SOLON Foundation.





Educational outings: 218 children enjoyed an excursion to Eagle Encounters where they learnt about wild birds and their importance, as well as an outing to Muizenberg water park in November for a fun picnic and activities.











SUPPORTING





QUICK STATS Works ACROSS programmes and communities 30 fathers trained by FAMSA

1 Book Sharing training

2 community gardens created and maintained

2 support groups for fathers

Research in Khayelitsha shows that there are few fathers who are actively involved in their young children's lives. Parents tend to live separately, with the mother taking on the day-to-day care, nurture and education of the child.

The Fatherhood Network seeks to engage fathers to be active participants in their children's lives and early childhood development by providing spaces where men can gather to learn, find resources and experience mentorship and support as parents.

Book Sharing training: provides practical skills for reading with young children and engaging them in basic literacy and storytelling.

Community gardens: our two gardens were constructed by and are maintained by fathers. Food from the gardens goes to families in need.

FAMSA & Mikhulu Trust training for men: men gathered for a week of training to discuss topics including the difference between a man and a father, roles and responsibilities of a man, drug and alcohol abuse, combatting gender-based violence and positive parenting.









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5OCIAL WORK SUPPORT SERVICES

I have been reminded again and again of what this profession entails: enhancing human well-being, helping individuals, families and communities to meet their basic needs, particularly those who are vulnerable, distressed and living in poor conditions. This year will be remembered for its heavy loadshedding, making it difficult for us to do our work and especially the large amount of social work administration that requires online access.

The Social Work team grew to two Social Workers and one Auxiliary worker who worked diligently to fulfil their mandate of working towards the vision of the organisation.

Our Social Work department resolved many cases this year. We started in the first term by assisting parents and caregivers to secure places for their young children at local primary schools. Our team intervened in 14 cases of children who did not apply for enrolment to Primary Schools by the required date due to family circumstances. Thankfully all the children were successfully placed.

SISO's Social Workers worked in partnership with FAMSA to generate a set of sustainable solutions to protect vulnerable families from the challenges of gender-based violence. 27 women/caregivers participated in gender-based violence support group sessions, becoming empowered to make informed decisions.

30 fathers in the Fatherhood Network attended a positive parenting workshop where they learnt about responsive parenting and other skills that they can use as they interact with their young children.

The Social Work team achieved (closed) 39 cases this year. These cases included:

- applications for birth certificates
- applications for identity documents
- applications for Child Support Grants
- obtaining birth/maternity certificates

We also dealt with cases of child neglect, abuse, special needs children and offered one-on-one and family counselling. Some of our cases involved challenging inter-province interaction for resolution.

The Social Work team provided therapeutic services during cluster workshops to caregivers, capacitating them with responsible parenting skills that enabled them to play a more accountable parent role at home.

We also supported our own employees in their personal and professional capacities to ensure a healthy organisation.

I am happy to report that we have made good progress in this reporting period.

Mrs Ntombovuyo Bongoza-Mthakathi Sikhula Sonke ECD Social Worker



HIGHLIGHTS, ACHIEVEMENTS, CHALLENGES



QUICK REVIEW
Award for Excellence
A culture of learning - together and individually
7 staff completed tertiary studies and received their NQF-4, NQF5 and diplomas

A new computer centre set up for online skills

Highlights

- Sikhula Sonke was nominated for an award for "Unleashing the Potential and Fostering Positive Community" by Drive for Excellence.
- 300 children received school backpacks (180 to Emthonjeni and 120 to Imbewu ECDs).
- The beautiful new classroom in K2 Section provided a wonderful space for Emthonjeni and community workshops during our very wet winter (see Emthonjeni information for photos).
- Training centre computers were donated by Allan Gray Foundation.
- A Good Samaritan visited the 1st 1000 days programme (FCM) at UT Gardens to bless children and caregivers with gifts which included winter fleece blankets for young children.

Staff achievements

We continue to be a learning organisation and are proud of the following excellent achievements:

- Phelokazi and Nomfundo received their NQF-4 certificates from False Bay College.
- Nomvuyo, Nolubabalo and Nolusisindiso obtained NQF-5 certificates from False Bay College.
- Winki and Nokufika received their Diplomas in ECD from False Bay College.
- ELOM Assessors completed their refresher course.
- The first job interns completed and passed all their courses except for the Driver's license.
- Mihlali passed a Project Management course.
- Nomasister and Bongile attained a learner's certificate.
- Bongile achieved a computer A+ Certificate.
- Mdebuka, Ntombovuyo, Mellissa and Papama enrolled in a 24-month trauma-informed Gender Based Violence and Femicide training course through Connect Network, sharing information learnt to equip our SISO staff.

Well done to our team!

- Mrs Thembakazi Nxesi, Programme Manager



Challenges

- Dry taps in Monwabisi Park posed a health hazard to the Emthonjeni programme.
- Some households travelled from far to participate in Emthonjeni; this was a safety risk for children.
- Harsh winter weather affected child attendance at Emthonieni spaces.
- The unstable data network was a challenge for our digital monitoring system.
- Load shedding brought additional challenges to all sectors of our society.
- Some basic documentation problems needed to be resolved from as far as the Eastern Cape which delayed the provision of basic rights for the children.
- Flooding in our shack facilities shortened our hours of service.
- Safety for our workers in the informal areas with taxi strikes, crime and unrest.

INVESTING IN PEOPLE





Social Work students Khululwa Mtso and Zubenathi Ntshele share about their internship...

As Social Work Students, our practical experience is an important part of our journey. During our practical placement at Sikhula Sonke under the mentorship of Mrs Ntombovuyo Bongoza-Mthakathi, we had the opportunity to gain hands-on experience.

We learned how to effectively assess clients' needs and develop intervention plans based on their unique circumstances. This included conducting in-depth interviews and collecting relevant information. Through discussions, observing the mentor's interactions with clients, and engaging in casework, group work and community work we gained a deeper understanding of Social Work's best practices and ethical considerations.

We learned how to establish rapport with clients, actively listen and use appropriate verbal and nonverbal communication techniques. These skills proved to be vital in building trust and promoting positive relationships with clients. We learnt that SISO serves a diverse population and our practical experience allowed us to enhance our cultural competence through understanding clients' cultural backgrounds, beliefs and values when supporting them.

Mrs Mthakathi maintained a supportive learning environment and regular opportunities for reflection and feedback. Working at SISO has significantly contributed to our professional and personal growth. We obtained distinctions towards our practical studies and we are grateful for the mentorship and guidance we received.



My name is **Nokonwaba Nobhongwana.** I started volunteering at Sikhula Sonke in 2021 when my child was attending the FCM Programme in A-Section Monwabisi Park.

My passion for working with children was stimulated by my involvement in the 1st 1000 days programme with Sikhula Sonke. I then started assisting with children's activities, helping with cooking for children and also doing other tasks within the organisation.

Sikhula Sonke really played a huge role towards my personal development by giving me the opportunity to partake in the ECD Basic training course held at the office and I graduated in December 2022. I had an opportunity to do the implementation in the field while I was doing the Basic Training. Through the attendance of Basic Training then I developed an interest in furthering my studies.

I requested permission at Sikhula Sonke to further my studies and applied at Cape Town College to study ECD Level 4. Without any doubt I want to see myself studying Foundation Phase Teaching at the University.

I thank Sikhula Sonke for the greatest opportunity they gave me and wish all the best for the organisation.





FINANCIAL REPORT

2022 saw the return to normal programme operation. However, we also saw the aftereffects of the hardship that the Khayelitsha community endured over the last few years, with higher numbers registering at our programmes and greater interventions needed to support families.

We have reached further within the community and built more partnerships. We completed our first funded Emthonjeni classroom, a true milestone and gamechanger for ECD reach and community empowerment. We are so grateful to our funding partners for their continued support, to new funders who have come on board and to partners who are working with us to uplift and empower children and their caregivers in the communities in which we are involved.

This year we have ended with a modest profit, largely due to an award won close to the end of the financial year. As a result, our Cash Reserves at year end were higher than last year at R1,383,456.

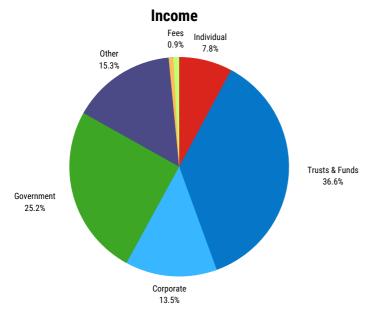
Note 4 to the Financial Statements shows the Cash held at year end and Note 5 shows how much of these funds are Deferred Income (R814,500), which is funding received in advance and to be used in the 2023/24 Financial Year.

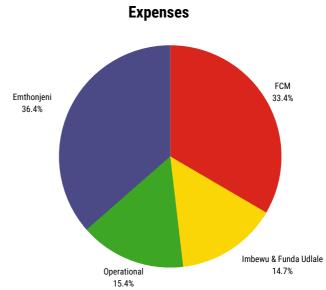
Expenses incurred per specific programmes may be useful information for donors:

- Note 12 relates to spending on the Funda Udlale Library Services and Training Program,
- Note 13 to Emthonieni Outreach, and
- Note 14 to Family Community Motivator (FCM).

We would like to draw your attention to a change in Accounting Policy as at 1 March 2023, which is outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements, being: "From 1 March 2023, the following items will be expensed directly to the income statement as capital expenditure in the year of acquisition: furniture and fixtures, office equipment, IT equipment and curriculum programme". Depreciation on buildings will remain as is.

The following two charts show which proportion of Income and Expenditure can be attributed to specific sectors of funding and programmes respectively:







THANKS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A heartfelt thank you to the wonderful village of partners, funders, donors, friends and family who make what we do possible!

ABAX Foundation
Amandla EduFootball

AVBOB

Allan & Gill Gray Philanthropy

BDV Platinum

BookDash

Breadline Africa

Carol du Toit Centre

Caroline Peterson

City of Cape Town

CoCT Fire & Rescue
CoCT Traffic Services

Connect Network
David & Cheryl Rennie

David & Natasha Jeffery

Department of Social Development

DG Murray Trust Drive 4 Excellence

Dr Monika Fierus & family

Duja Consulting

FAMSA ForAfrika

Frank & Abi Daubenton Gallant Accounting

Gerard Adema

Harare Police Station HCI Foundation

HeadsUp!

HillTop Spar (Harare)

Home Choice Development Trust

Ikamva Labantu Impact Consulting Inclusive Education Innovation Edge

Joan St Ledger

Jim Joel Fund

Keike Barth

Khayelitsha ECD Forum Khayelitsha ECD Centres MAID Charity Foundation

Mapula Trust

Martin & Lesley Mostert

Maximilian Igl Mikhulu Trust

Michael Mapongwana Clinic

Nali'bali Nanny 'n Me

Oppenheimer Memorial Trust

Oyster Africa

PA Don Charitable Trust Percy Fox Foundation

Phambano Technology Development Centre NPC

Private donors Rebecca Cameron

Rolf-Stephen Nussbaum Foundation

The Roddenberry Foundation

Sikhula Sonke staff through payroll giving

Simameleni

SOLON Foundation Spotty Dog Enterprises The UnLimited Child Tools4Schools

TygerValley Centre

Western Cape Department of Education

WordWorks

Wynberg Girls High School



Contact us

SISO Offices and Training Centre 35-903 Cephe Crescent, Harare Square, Khayelitsha, 7784, Cape Town, South Africa

Tel: +27 (0) 21 224 0807 Email: info@sikhulasonke.org.za www.sikhulasonke.org.za FB:@sikhulasonkeecd

Registration details

Non Profit Company Number: 2003/010956/08 Date Established: 2001 NPO Registration Number: 030-217 NPO SARS PBO Registration Number: 930 004 377 Section 18A Registration: Yes BBB-EE compliant: Yes

